



President's Message

By Linda Griebel



August has arrived with heat that keeps on giving... Figs and peaches have matured and I'm dehydrating lots for future use. Even some rain supplements the irrigation that we still seem to need to supply, but we're glad to have some natural water. A surprise daylily re-bloomed yesterday while my angel trumpet has put out several flowers rather early. Was not expecting those at this time, but we enjoy all the blooms any time we can get them. It's the time to do tip pruning on your blueberries (if needed) and to give them one last feeding. Be sure to water in granular fertilizer well or plants might burn.

In spite of the heat, members continue to help in the Learning Gardens, at Lanark and the Governor's Mansion, as well as provide valuable gardening information on the helpline and at the Millbrook Farmers Market. I know many of you do presentations as well. Thanks for being there to offer your skills and abilities.

Let's not neglect to follow up on any new recruits with whom you've been talking. The deadline for new applications is August 20th. You can still hand out forms as well as refer potential candidates to the internet link (<http://bit.ly/MGApplication>).

We are delighted to have an intern graduating class. It's not too late to make your reservations for this very important celebration. It's going to be fun seeing our friends receive a well deserved certificate along with a delicious summer time luncheon in their honor. See you at the August 18th graduation / meeting!

Linda

Table of Contents:

President's Message.	1
Mallory Kelley.	2
Plant of the Month	3
Help Line/Farmers Mkt.	4
Events Calendar	5
Minutes	6-7
Spotlight	8
Lanark.	9
CAMGA July	10
Lunch & Learn.	11
Programs.	12
Learning Garden	13
Governor's Mansion	14
Announcements	15

Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Summer Time Mosquitoes

When you're from the south, mosquitoes are just something you learn to live with, but something you will never get use to. As we are all so thankful for the many afternoon showers popping up in central Alabama, this will often increase the population and activity of mosquitoes. These insects can be a major nuisance and problem especially if you have late afternoon activities planned outdoors.

The best way to avoid mosquitoes is by scheduling outdoor activities before or after peak mosquito activity and by using repellents. Peak activity is usually in the late afternoon and at dusk and use repellents containing diethyl toluamide (DEET). Drenching oneself in repellent is not necessary. You need only enough repellent to "confuse" the mosquito so it cannot detect a suitable spot to feed. There are repellents that boast 95 percent DEET content; however, a repellent of this concentration is unnecessary to provide adequate protection, may result in skin irritation, and is costly. Concentrations of 10 to 15 percent DEET are recommended for adults; products containing less than 8 percent are recommended for children. Repellents that are DEET-free, contain citronella and are also effective. Mosquitoes use odor and chemical cues to locate their food source. As the mosquito comes near a potential host, moist air from the host and visual cues become important. Carbon dioxide exhaled by animals, including humans, is an example of a chemical cue that mosquitoes use to find their hosts. Repellents work by "confusing" the mosquito, keeping it from landing on or biting the intended host.

If you have an influx in mosquitoes suddenly or are trying to prepare for a outdoor party or activity it is important to search out areas that are being used as mosquito habitat and breeding grounds. Mosquito eggs are always laid in association with water and where it is quiet and protected. Females may lay up to 100 or 200 eggs per batch and deposit an egg batch every 7 or 10 days. Eggs can take from days to months to hatch. In general, during warm periods and under favorable conditions, eggs will hatch in a few days. However, in areas that experience seasonal "flood-water" these eggs can remain dormant and are capable of surviving for months out of water until they are flooded again. Other sites where eggs may be deposited include tree holes, temporary puddles, freshwater and salt marshes, and containers in which water stands, such as discarded tires, cans, pet water dishes, and bird baths.

You may not have containers with standing water, but your neighbor may, or water may be collecting in a ditch somewhere in the neighborhood. There are things homeowners can do to help prevent mosquito infestations and sanitation and control materials two of the best methods.

The first step in sanitizing is to eliminate the breeding sites. It is also important to manage vegetation because adult mosquitoes rest on dense vegetation during the day. Cut tall weeds, and keep shrubs and trees trimmed away from the house to increase air circulation. Other steps you can take include; cleaning debris from rain gutters, eliminate standing water on and around structures such as flat roofs, air conditioner units, and leaky pipes and faucets, change the water in birdbaths and wading pools weekly, and change the water in pet bowls daily.

For control products there are a number of products and materials that can be used alone or in combinations to control mosquitoes. These control methods can be directed toward either larvae or adults and therefore are categorized as larvicides or adulticides.

Larvicides- Products to control larvae which will prevent mosquitoes from hatching include; *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (B.t.i) that is commercially available as Bactomos, Teknar, and Vectobac. B.t.i. can also be purchased as "mosquito dunks" that can be used in water that cannot be drained, such as unused swimming pools and retention ponds. B.t.i. is considered a "biological" method and poses a minimal threat to nontarget organisms. **Adulticides-** Products to control adult mosquitoes include yard foggers which typically contain pyrethrins and can be set off shortly before outside activity and will provide temporary relief from mosquitoes. Also spray shrubs and the lower branches of trees where mosquitoes rest. Use insecticides registered for flying insects but that will not harm plants—for example, certain formulations of malathion, permethrin, or pyrethrins. Pet owners should be concerned with mosquito control because mosquitoes transmit heartworm to dogs. Your veterinarian can prescribe a drug treatment that prevents the worms from reaching the adult stage in your dog.



Liatris—Featured Plant of the Month -August

By Jane Mobley

One of the perennial plants we have in our butterfly garden that has generated some questions is the spiky liatris or blazing star or gay feather.



These plants were originally prairie wildflowers and can be grown in beds, borders, and containers. They make excellent fresh or dried cut flowers and are, of course, great attractors of butterflies. If the spikes are not cut earlier, the seed heads are great bird attractors in the fall. Because of their vertical growth habit, these plants do not take up large spaces per plant making them great additions to a small space or eye-catching accents among other, shorter plants in a larger area.



Members of the Liatris species grow from one to five feet tall from mounds of narrow grasslike leaves which remain green during the growing season and turn bronze in the fall. Flowers bloom from the top of the spikes down with fuzzy, thistle

like petals usually in some hue of purple, but sometimes in white or rose colors. Plants should be grown in full sun although they can tolerate a little shade. They are drought and heat tolerant and fairly cold tolerant in zones 5 - 9, and are tolerant of most soils even rocky terrain. Liatris are pest resistant. They cannot tolerate any standing water.

Liatris plants are grown from corms planted in the early spring or in the late fall in some areas. They sprout in the spring and bloom in the summer. Corms should be planted 12 - 15 inches apart and will usually bloom the year that they are planted. Corms should never be planted more than two inches deep or they will not come up at all. Corms **MUST** be planted in the correct orientation or they will not sprout. One must look closely to see the tiny roots in order to plant that side down. If one wants a long bloom period, corm planting can be staggered at two week intervals from spring to midsummer. Liatris sp. can be grown from seeds, particularly if they are first cold stratified before planting, but the resulting plants will not bloom the first year. Newly planted corms should be watered the first few weeks after planting, but usually do not need much watering thereafter. Fertilization is usually not needed although a little boost can be added when the corms are first planted.

Plants may be divided every few years and is usually done in the fall after the plants die back. Because of the unusual blooming pattern on the spikes, as blooms are spent on the top, they can be snipped off and will put out more flowers further down on the spike. This characteristic makes them one of the best cut flowers of the garden. If this is done during the bloom time, then the leafy mound is left for attractive fall color.



Millbrook Farmer's Market

By Rick Ohlson

We are about half way through the MFM and things are going well. The heat is keeping the crowds low this year but we are staying busy. A special thanks to my regular guys Butch Kenny and Joe L'Abbe.

They seem to know the folks and are really up on common garden issues. Others helping out are Judy May, John Barnes, and Norm Turnipseed.

We still have about 6 weeks to go so if anyone would like to get in a few hours of time discussing issues with the Millbrook community, give me a call. We haven't seen interns this year but it is a good way to add to you total hours and not have to be digging and weeding in this hot weather. If you need some hours, we could use a person this Tuesday, and the 4th, 18th, and 25th of August. If you'd like to help out, give me a call or email. 334-233-7425

AUGUST 18 MEETING / GRADUATION ATTENDANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

If you did not sign up at the July meeting, please email or call Linda Griebel to get on the list (include if you are bringing a guest). Interns do not bring food, but other members should also let me know what dish (salad, vegetable, dessert) they will bring to the celebration. Remember that we will be at Mulder Memorial Methodist Church, 3454 Firetower Road (Wetumpka 36093).

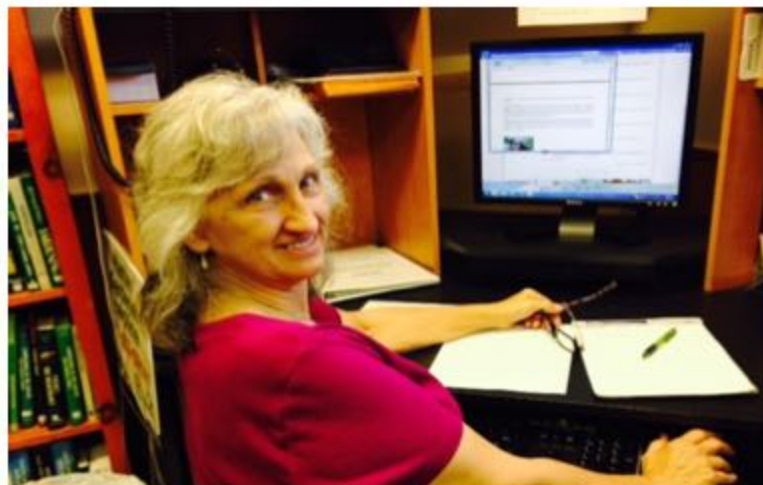


HELPLINE NEWS

JULY 2015

By Mary Ann Hatcher

Our volunteers have continued to man the phones despite the decline in calls and office visits. Volunteering this month were Interns: Linda Queen, Joyce Vella, James May, Cheri Bedford, Lavonne Hart, and Darla Tiesling. Master Gardeners volunteering were: Ricky Hatcher, Cathy Whigham, and Marie Updike. Cathy and Marie were training to be Advisors. Sharon Potts was our ever faithful Attendance Reminder and Mary Ann Hatcher served as an Advisor. Thank you all for your service.



**Lavonne Hart
searching for
an answer to
client's concern.**

August 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3 Governor's Mansion Work Day	4	5 Lanark Work Day 	6 Learning Garden Work Day	7	8
9	10 Governor's Mansion Work Day	11 Lunch And Learn	12 Lanark Work Day 	13 Learning Garden Work Day	14	15
16	17 Governor's Mansion Work Day	18 CAMGA Intern Graduation	19 Lanark Work Day 	20 Learning Garden Work Day	21	22
23	24 Governor's Mansion Work Day	25	26 Lanark Work Day 	27 Learning Garden Work Day	28	29
30	31 Governor's Mansion Work Day					

JULY MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The July, 2015, Central Alabama Master Gardeners' Association (CAMGA) meeting was held July 21, 2015, at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium in Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She asked Lee Borden to introduce the program speaker. First, Lee reminded everyone to complete the evaluation forms and to answer questions on the back of the form. Then he introduced Mary McCroan, CAMGA Master Gardener with Advanced Master Gardener credentials, and Chair of the Learning Gardens committee.

Mary gave an informative and animated presentation about snakes in the garden. While many conversations about snakes are filled with dread, she explained the helpful role of snakes in the garden. Snakes rid the garden of harmful insects and rodents without harming the garden plants or the environment. The speaker shared some myths about snakes such as, "Snakes go blind in the heat of summer." Snakes do not go blind in the summer; however, snakes close to shedding their skins do experience a temporary lessening of vision as the old protective scales covering the eyes, begin to separate from new ones developing underneath. During this time, the eyes appear milky, and the snake's ability to see is minimal.

She noted that there are 66 identified species and sub-species of snakes in Alabama, and that 52 of these reside in the Elmore County region. Eleven of these species and sub-species are poisonous. The majority of poisonous snakes in Alabama are pit vipers which include rattlesnakes, pigmy rattlesnakes, copperheads, cottonmouths, and water moccasins. The only poisonous snake in Alabama not classified as a pit viper is the coral snake. The coral snake is usually found in counties further south of Elmore County. However, there was a coral snake sighting in Coosa County in 2009.

Mary detailed some traits to help discriminate between poisonous pit vipers and non-poisonous snakes. First, she described that in general, pit vipers have thick bodies, broad heads, a narrow neck in relation to the head, a heat sensor, elliptical eyes, single-set scales on the under body, and are buoyant. In comparison, non-poisonous snakes generally have thin bodies; smaller heads, round pupils, no heat sensor, dual-set scales on the underbody, and are less buoyant. The best way to identify coral snakes is to check the sequence of color bands. The top of the head and nose are black. The typical body markings are complete bands of alternating red and black, separated by narrow yellow rings. There is a saying to help with identification of the coral snake: "Red on black a friend of Jack; red on yellow kills a fellow."

Several photographs of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes along with descriptions were spotlighted. Mary shared a live specimen of the worm snake during her presentation. She was pleased that the front row of attendees did not flee the auditorium in panic. In fact, Mary had to reassure everyone that she was not harming the snake and holding it gently. A questions and answer session followed. The web site: www.outdooralabama.com was cited as a good resource for further information about snakes in Alabama.

After the break, Linda convened the business meeting at 11:09 a.m. She sang "Happy Birthday" to CAMGA as the organization started on July 21, 1993! Linda also shared news from Mallory Kelley. Hudson and Coleman are doing well. Also, we are on track for an intern class in the fall. Next, Lee Borden reported on programs for meetings in August and September. Intern Graduation will take place on August 18, 2015 at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church, 3454 Firetower Rd, Wetumpka, AL, 36093. On September 15th, Lee will be the speaker and the topic is, "A Layman's Take on Photosynthesis." Linda thanked Lee, Anida Wishnietsky, and the entire website committee for their work in making CAMGA.net a reality. Lee encouraged everyone to visit the website which has on the menu a video school. This video by Lee, gives step-by-step instructions for operating the new video camera. Linda commended Lee for his creativity and enthusiasm in





providing user-friendly technology lessons for CAMGA members.

Linda asked attendees if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the June Minutes published in the July Newsletter. There were none and the June Minutes were approved by acclamation. The secretary requested that when making a motion, the individual state his/her first and last name for the records. In addition, anyone making a motion should state the entire motion for the records.

Rhona Watson was recognized to give the Treasurer's Report for June, 2015. The balance as of May 31, 2015 was \$13,449.83. There was no income for June. Expenditures for June were: \$656.39 for the video camera and screen, \$100 donation to the Episcopal Church, site of the Plant Sale, and \$96.16 for the Learning Gardens. Total June expenditures were \$852.55. This resulted in a balance, as of June 30, 2015, of \$12,597.28. The Treasurer's Report was approved by acclamation.

Rhona awarded Maria Pacheco-West the gold badge which represented 1023 hours of volunteer service. Congratulations to Maria!

Linda reported for the Projects Committee that the YMCA project is pending until fall. The master gardener Plant Swap is scheduled for October 9, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the Extension Auditorium, and those interested should have 5 established plants to swap. The Projects Committee will oversee the CAMGA-sponsored seminar for next year. Katrina Mitchell brought to this committee the possibility of starting some raised beds at the Elmore Co Food Pantry, that would be maintained by Food Pantry clients. The details for this endeavor are still under consideration.

Charlotte Hall represented the Lunch and Learn (L&L) committee. The July session conducted by Anthony Yarbrough was attended by 22 participants. The session in August is titled "Zap Me with Organic Solutions" and will be led by Mallory Kelley. This committee of Sandi Adkinson, Charlotte Hall, Debbie Kelso, and Carla McCune will meet in the fall to plan programs for next year. Linda recognized this committee for being proactive and for all around good work.

Candy Jones gave special thanks to the Advanced Master Gardener Committee for their help and support during last month's program. She is already having dialogue with members interested in obtaining advanced certification.

Becky Brown asked those who planned to attend the intern graduation on August 18th to sign the sign-up sheet in order to know the number who would be in attendance. Becky also referenced some intern application hand outs in which she highlighted sections for recruitment purposes. The deadline for intern applicants is August 20, 2015. Applicants do not pay \$125.00 until they are informed by Mallory Kelley that they are accepted in the class. Upon acceptance, the applicant will receive the password for a secure portal to use for entering the background check information.

Next, Marjorie Hannah informed members of the sign-up sheet for those, other than interns, who plan to bring a covered dish and any other necessary items for the Intern Graduation.

Gale Wheeler-Leonard reported that cards were sent to Sandy Rosamond and to Jane Mobley. She requested that members call her to let her know when there is illness or other condolences to be sent so that she might follow up with a card.

Jane Mobley reminded everyone to send to her any pictures and/or published articles for this year's scrapbook.

Phil Easter shared that the television station WSFA is very welcoming of the monthly L&L promotion, and that station representatives requested information about the new website, CAMGA.net. Linda announced that Charlotte Hall will serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee for next year's officers and requested that members contacted consider becoming officers.

Rick Ohlson reminded members of the CAMGA table at the Millbrook Farmers' Market which is open for business from 8:00 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays. Let Rick know if you are available to volunteer any time during the hours of operation. The market will be open through August.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m. Door prizes were awarded. Fifty participants attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May

Working at the Governor's Mansion this month were Jane McCarthy, Amanda Borden and Melanie Barry. Phil Easter did the WSFA Alabama Live Promotion for Lunch and Learn with Anthony Yarbrough, wrote an article for the River Region Living magazine on Tough as Nails Plants for the River Region, and did a press release about the Fall Master Gardener Class and got it out to all magazines and newspapers.

The Lunch and learn July 14th was "What's Bugging You" by Anthony Yarbrough. There were twenty two attendees, 15 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting that day were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Debbie Kelso and Carla McCune.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting July 10th were Johan Beumer, Jane Mobley, Janet Lewis, John Butler, Linda Griebel and Katrina Mitchell. Linda attended the AMGA Advisory Board meeting in Clanton on June 9th. Marie Updike has been busy. She attended the second Floral Design workshop June 22nd, sponsored by the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs. She also attended the Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Society meeting July 11th at the Columbus Botanical Gardens, and participated in a planning session with the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs. On July 15th she did a presentation on "Dazzling Daylilies- The Perfect Perennial" at the Montgomery Coliseum Boulevard Branch Library. Attendees also enjoyed a plant swap.

Helping with the Millbrook Farmers Market this month were Butch Kinney, Joe L'Abbe, Norman Turnipseed, John Barnes and Rick Ohlson.

Bringing refreshments to the MG meeting this month were Iva Haynie, Candy Jones, Becky Brown, Angela Peltier and Marjorie Hannah.

At Lanark this month, Maria says Master Gardeners Carla McCune, Judy May, Ann Hill and Norman Turnipseed braved the heat and helped each Wednesday to prune, weed, trim, pick-up sticks and pot up plants. All were of tremendous help and Maria thanks each one for their dedicated work. Interns Don Hoover, Peggy Gelpi, and Jimmy May also came during the last four weeks and helped prune, weed, trim, pick-up sticks and pot up plants. Jimmy May repaired the falling apart garden wagon. It had last been repaired by R.J. Arceneaux a few years ago. Maria says thanks to all. Lanark continues looking beautiful!

Working the Helpline this month were Master Gardeners Sharon Potts, Marie Updike, Cathy Whigham, Ricky and Mary Ann Hatcher. Also interns Darla Tiesling, Lavonne Hart, Linda Queen, Joyce Vella, James May and Cheri Bedford.



These dedicated interns are getting volunteer hours working at Lanark. This yard cart they refurbished has three coats of waterproof sealant, a coat of Rustoleum rust dissolving paint, and new galvanized nuts, bolts, and washers; except for the stainless steel pieces that were salvaged. We expect Maria to get many hours of use out of this yard cart—eliminating a lot of back-breaking toting and carrying.
Be Blessed!



Here are three Intern Master Gardeners volunteering at Lanark Wildlife Center with Maria; Peggy Gelpi, Don, and James May. It was hot! It was dirty! But it was worth it. The interns say "Thank you for the opportunity!"



CAMGA JULY Meeting Snakes to Know in your Garden



Mary McCroan shows a small non-poisonous snake found in her yard .

Mary gave an informative and animated presentation about snakes in the garden. While many conversations about snakes are

filled with dread, she explained the helpful role of snakes in the garden. Snakes rid the garden of harmful insects and rodents without harming the garden plants or the environment. The speaker shared some myths about snakes such as, "Snakes go blind in the heat of summer." Snakes do not go blind in the summer; however, snakes close to shedding their skins do experience a temporary lessening of vision as the old protective scales covering the eyes, begin to separate from new ones developing underneath. During this time, the eyes appear milky, and the snake's ability to see is minimal.

She noted that there are 66 identified species and sub-species of snakes in Alabama, and that 52 of these reside in the Elmore County region. Eleven of these species and sub-species are poisonous. The majority of poisonous snakes in Alabama are pit vipers which include rattlesnakes, pigmy rattlesnakes, copperheads, cottonmouths, and water moccasins. The only poisonous snake in Alabama not classified as a pit viper is the coral snake. The coral snake is usually found in counties further south of Elmore County. However, there was a coral snake sighting in Coosa County in 2009.

Mary detailed some traits to help discriminate between poisonous pit vipers and non-poisonous snakes. First, she described that in general, pit vipers have thick bodies, broad heads, a narrow neck in relation to the head, a heat sensor, elliptical eyes, single-set scales on the under body, and are buoyant. In comparison, non-poisonous snakes generally have thin bodies; smaller heads, round pupils, no heat sensor, dual-set scales on the underbody, and are less buoyant. The best way to identify coral snakes is to check the sequence of color bands. The top of the head and nose are black. The typical body markings are complete bands of alternating red and black, separated by narrow yellow rings. There is a saying to help with identification of the coral snake: "Red on black a friend of Jack; red on yellow kills a fellow."

Several photographs of poisonous and non-poisonous snakes along with descriptions were spotlighted. Mary shared a live specimen of the worm snake during her presentation. She was pleased that the front row of attendees did not flee the auditorium in panic. In fact, Mary had to reassure everyone that she was not harming the snake and holding it gently. A questions and answer session followed. The web site: www.outdooralabama.com was cited as a good resource for further information about snakes in Alabama.

Lunch and Learn By Charlotte Hall



Who doesn't get frustrated about this time of the year when all the Spring hard work and visions of bountiful produce seems destroyed by invading critters? Tomatoes devoured by tomato hornworms, rose leaves laced by Japanese beetles, or the bloom and fruit eaten entirely by some unknown insect? This is an ever present problem in the South with our abundance of heat and humidity. Anthony Yarbrough, who is fascinated by the world of insects, made a presentation at the July Lunch and Learn making a pitch for a way we can best adapt to this garden invader.



Debbie Kelso introduces Anthony Yarbrough

Insects are both friends and foes of the garden. As friends, insects are pollinators, decomposers, and offer biological control, as well as produce products such as honey, source of food and used in research. As foes, they damage plants, transmit diseases, do structure damage and also damage post harvest – and they can just be a nuisance. To be a successful gardener, one needs to know which insects are friends or foes. If foes, it is advantageous to know the life cycle of a particular insect in order to best control the insect. By studying the life cycle, a gardener can invoke many useful methods of control other than harmful pesticides.

The boll weevil that once nearly destroyed the livelihood of Southern farmers was eradicated by understanding its life cycle. The boll weevil overwinters in its adult stage and by spraying in the winter time, complete eradication was successful over a period of three winters. Farmers had been spraying during the spring and summer with little success until they learned the best and most susceptible time for spraying by utilizing knowledge of the boll weevil life cycle.

The reproductive power of insects is astronomical. There are more insects in one square mile than people on earth. If one female and male fly were allowed to reproduce, without any offspring dying, they would produce enough in one reproductive cycle to cover the United States four and one half feet deep in flies!

Anthony identified many common insects, in different life cycle stages, with colorful slides and physical descriptions, along with information about their habits and life cycles. Insects cover a very wide range of physical forms in their different life stages such as moths, butterflies, caterpillars, beetles, mites, flies, etc. It is important to be able to recognize both the immature and adult stages of common pests as the damage that they do differ for particular stages. Some of the insects covered:

Aphids – plant lice with a wide range of hosts, young give birth to young which are all females that in turn give birth to all females – creating an invasion of aphids in a short time, overwinter in egg stages, may be different colors such as green, black or red, cause leaves to curl up, also produce sticky honey dew that falls on cars from pecan trees, may be controlled by hosing off the plants.

Thrips – minute, slender insects which suck juice from plants, cause white splotches on leaves with leaves turning pale, splotchy, silvery and then dying, interfere with pollination, spreads disease, may be controlled with natural insecticidal soaps.

Other common insects that cause plant damage are green stink bugs, flea beetles, Mexican bean beetle, bean leaf beetle, whiteflies, cucumber beetle, pickleworms, squash bug, cabbage looper worm, harlequin bugs, army worms, colored potato beetle, hornworms – to name a few!

Anthony was quick to add that there are many beneficial insects for the garden such as types of lady bugs which do the most good in the larval stage, tiger beetles, predator ground beetles (which do bite), syrphid

flies, long legged flies, robber flies, spined soldier bugs, predacious damselflies and dragonflies, assassin bugs (bites like a hornet), green lacewing, brown lacewing, big eyed bug, and parasitoid wasps. White eggs on the backs of many types of caterpillars (catawba worms, tomato worms, etc.) indicate caterpillars that have been stung by these parasitic wasps, thus killing the caterpillars.

For Integrated Pest Management, insects may be controlled in the following ways:

Cultural – clean the garden area and remove sickly or dying plants, Mechanical – pick the worms and insects from the plants, Scouting – look at your garden on a daily basis and be aware of pest infestation, Biological – augmentation or the use of natural enemies of the pests such as particular predators and parasitoid insects, use of certain bacteria, fungi and viruses that debilitate and kill certain insects, and Chemical - the use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides which is recommended as a last resort.

Another way to control the effect of harmful insects is to promote beneficial insects. Spot spray instead of cover spray. Use the least toxic pesticide available to minimize harm to beneficial insects such as insecticidal soap or Dipel. Provide water and shelter for beneficials. Develop a tolerance for some plant damage to allow beneficials to increase. Plant flowers that attract beneficials. Plant flowers for season long nectar and pollen. Suggested flowers that attract beneficials are: Angelonia, Butterfly weed, Sunflower, Cosmos, Yarrow, Aster, Coneflower, Parsley, Veronica and Zinnias.



CHALLENGE
Can you identify me????

A challenge was presented to the July Lunch and Learn attendees. Who could identify this bright green caterpillar (left)? Anthony Yarbrough who spoke on the topic "What's Bugging You" certainly did, as well as Linda Griebel who was stung by this cute but painful caterpillar. Thanks, Linda, for taking one for the team!! Linda attested to the pain one feels if one encounters this saddleback caterpillar. Gardeners, beware!!

For a follow up on how to control these insects and other pests, join us next month, August 11th, when Mallory Kelley will make a presentation on Zap 'Em with Organic Solutions. See you then, bring your lunch and remember that cool drinks are on us!

Programs Update by Lee Borden

On July 21 Mary McCroan regaled us with lots of information about the role that snakes play in our gardens. We learned that snakes eat insects and rodents (like voles!) that might be pests.

We learned that Alabama has 50 species of snakes and that only six of them are venomous. We learned that we're five times more likely to die in our bathtub than we are to die of a snakebite. We learned that, in general, venomous snakes tend to be thicker than non-venomous ones, tend to have triangular-shaped heads, and tend to have cat-eye pupils rather than the round pupils of non-venomous snakes.

In August we will meet at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church rather than at the Extension auditorium, so we can enjoy lunch together and celebrate the graduation of our interns. Interns don't need to bring any food, but active members should bring a side dish. If you're unsure what dish to bring, call Marjorie Hannah.



Ongoing Article for Learning Garden By Mary McCroan

In July we have been focusing on getting to the gardens early and leaving early before it gets too hot. So 7 am (or maybe even earlier for some) and then heading home by 9 am or 10 am at the latest. We've not done any major projects, but have stayed busy with a little harvesting, a little planting, a little weeding and pruning. The best thing



Linda and Peggy Gelpi

about our Thursdays is the great group that shows up. Everybody is enthusiastic about all that is growing and green and just a lot of fun to spend some time with. Ongoing Article for Learning Garden. Workers for July: Cheri Bedford, Terri Chambliss, Cindy Beumer, Linda Griebel, Don Hoover, Peggy Gelpi, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley, Amanda Borden, Rosemary Mobley, Joyce Bella, John Barnes, and Mary McCroan. Most of these folks worked most of the Thursdays in July. Thanks!!



Harvesting tomatoes



Our vertical vegetable garden



Above: Our raised beds have proven to be very successful method of gardening.

Right: The work group deserves a break from the long, hot morning work session.



Governor's Mansion Report by Amanda Borden



Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion spent most of July weeding, trimming, and trying to stay in the shade as much as possible. They pulled vines off the fence around the tennis court and limbed up camellias near the driveway. One work day was spent pruning away dead stems from hydrangeas and pulling weeds in the Secret Garden.



L-
R:



Melanie Barry, Jane McCarthy, Amanda Borden

2015 INTERN GRADUATION IS ALMOST HERE !! See you Tuesday, August 18th at Mulder Methodist Church on Fire Tower Rd. in Wetumpka.

August CAMGA meeting at 10 AM. Lunch then Graduation.

Members – NOT INTERNS – are to bring the extras [salads, vegetables, drinks, desserts, plates, cups, napkins and 'silverware'.] to compliment the chicken fingers provided by Mallory.

ALSO, if you have not already signed the list from the July meeting, you need to sign up yourself (and a guest) if you will be attending the Celebration for our interns. We need to have an accurate count of attendees. Or contact Marjorie Hanna by phone 334.361.7152.

Mark your calendars for

Blount County Master Gardener's

Fall Conference Blount

October 1, 2015 9:30 am – 3 pm

Palisades Park, D. S. Loyd Building, 225 Palisades Park, Oneonta, AL 35121

CAMGA *Garden Buzzzz*
Mary Long— Editor
Plantlady@elmore.rr.com
Elmore, Alabama 36025
plantlady@elmore.rr.com



NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 18

10 A.M.

**INTERN
GRADUATION**

**MULDER
METHODIST
CHURCH**

CONGRATS
to all our
interns who
will graduate
August 18

